



James Inman photo

# FALL TURKEY HUNTING

## SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 27 - Nov. 2 and Dec. 1-7, 2012	Sept. 1, 2012 - Jan. 21, 2013	Oct. 1-21 and Nov. 10 - Dec. 31, 2012

### BAG LIMITS

Four (4) birds total, either sex:

- No more than two (2) birds may be taken during archery and crossbow seasons.
- No more than two (2) birds may be taken during shotgun season, regardless of weapon.
- No more than one (1) bird may have a beard length of three (3) inches or longer.
- No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day.

### PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

**Adult hunters:** Unless exempt, all fall turkey hunters ages 16 and older must carry a Fall Turkey Permit or have

been issued an authorization number for a Fall Turkey Permit before hunting. The Fall Turkey Permit is valid for fall archery, crossbow and shotgun turkey seasons. The permit is good for a total of four turkeys, following fall turkey bag limits and equipment restrictions.

**Youth hunters:** Youth under the age of 12 are exempt from license and turkey permit requirements. Youth ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase a Youth Turkey Permit, which is valid during any turkey season for one turkey. Youth hunters must abide by season bag limits and harvest restrictions but can use the youth permit throughout the license year. The Youth Sportsman's License includes one Youth Turkey Permit.

Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt, for a legal hunter.

Callers and assistants don't have to possess hunting licenses or turkey permits if they are not turkey hunting, and may carry equipment while in the field.

### EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

Turkey hunters may not use firearms to take turkeys during archery or crossbow-only seasons.

On some WMAs, special equipment restrictions apply, as noted in the Public Land Hunting section, which begins on page 41.

**Q:** Can more than one Youth Turkey Permit be purchased?

**A:** Yes. Youth hunters may buy multiple Youth Turkey Permits, but must follow the season bag limit.

### Youth supervision

Firearm turkey hunters 15 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm at all times.

**Q:** Can all four birds be taken with archery or crossbow equipment?

**A:** Yes, but only two may be taken during the archery-only or crossbow seasons. The other two must be taken during the shotgun seasons.

## HARVEST RECORDING & TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

The process and requirements for recording, checking and tagging harvested turkeys are the same as for deer, elk and bear. See page 10.

## POSSESSION/RELEASE OF LIVE TURKEYS

Because of potential disease problems and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild.

**Hunters also take note: ONLY licensed taxidermists may sell the ined-**

**ible parts from harvested wild turkeys, including tail fans, beards and spurs.**

## HUNTING TURKEYS OVER BAIT IS ILLEGAL

It is illegal to hunt turkeys over bait – an area where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys have been placed. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substance exists as the result of bona fide agricultural practice or manipulating a crop for a wildlife management purpose is legal for turkey hunting.

## LEGAL FALL TURKEY EQUIPMENT

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge and no smaller than 20-gauge.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows, of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows, of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Broadheads at least 7/8" wide, which aren't barbed, chemically-treated, or have attachments that contain chemicals.

## Scoring a record turkey!

For information about scoring a turkey for the official NWTF records system, log on to [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org) or contact National Wild Turkey Federation, Attn: Wild Turkey Records, P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824-0530, telephone: 1-800-THE-NWTF.



## Raise money for your conservation project with a Commission Conservation Permit!

Any incorporated nonprofit wildlife conservation organization or club can apply for a Commission Conservation Permit (Special Permit) in writing by submitting a conservation project proposal. Awarded permits can then be sold to raise money for the project.

The Commission may award up to ten quota elk hunting permits, ten deer permits, ten turkey, ten waterfowl and ten trout permits each year. Applicants may apply for one special permit per species.

For application details, visit [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and click on "Commissioner's Office." The deadline is May 1.